

11. I have suggested that the antagonisms are due to chemical displacement. Atropia antagonizes muscarin, pilocarpine and aconitia because it has a stronger affinity for the muscular and nervous structures of the heart than these substances, and displaces them, replacing their effect by its own.

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THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF MAGNETS.—Dr. W. A. Hammond reports, in the November number of the *New York Medical Journal*, his experience with the therapeutic use of magnets. He describes two cases of hemiplegia and two of chorea in which the application of strong horseshoe magnets produced, apparently, astonishing results. In the two choreic cases a few minutes' application cured the disease, and there was no relapse. In one of the hemiplegics there was a recovery of both sensation and motion of the paralyzed side on the day of the application, and speech (the patient was aphasic) returned before the next morning. Some twenty days later, however, a second attack proved fatal. In the other case there followed the use of the magnet a complete and lasting return of sensibility, but no improvement in other respects. In seven other cases of chorea the magnets had no effect.

Dr. Hammond, commenting on these cases of hemiplegia, as well as those reported by Debove and Boudet, suggests that whatever organic lesion existed was mainly, at least, situated in the thalamus. It would be asking too much, he thinks, to claim any specific influence of the magnets, and the frequent transitory character of the symptoms in thalamic lesions affords one of the best means of explanation. It may be that a strong mental influence was the cause of the relief. He offers the cases simply as facts of interest, pointing out a line worthy of further research.

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The following are the titles of a few of the recently-published articles on the therapeutics of the nervous system and mind :

ROCKWELL, On the Value of the Galvanic Current in Exophthalmic Goitre, *N. Y. Med. Rec.*, Sept. 11.—NEWLAND, On the Rational Treatment of Epilepsy, *St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Oct. 5.—SEGUR, Prophylaxis of Puerperal Convulsions, *Prac. Med. Soc. Co. Kings*, Oct., 1880.—GARRETTSON, Excision of the Inferior Dental Nerve by means of the Dental Engine, for the Relief of Obstinate Neuralgia, *N. Y. Med.*

*Record*, Oct. 23.—MANN, Dipsomania and the Opium Habit, and their Treatment, *Southern Clinic*, Oct.—RUTTER, Lunatic Asylums, *Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic*, Oct. 30.—LANDESBURG, Case of Neuralgia of the First Branch of the Fifth Pair, of Six Years' Duration, Cured by Duquesnel's Aconitia, *Med. and Surg. Reporter*, Nov. 6.—ALLEN, Asylum Supervision, *Jour. of Psych. Med.*, vol. vi, part 2.—GRAFF, Headache and the Remedies Proposed, *Physician and Surgeon*, Dec.

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